

Amendments to the Claims:

1. (currently amended) A vacuum cleaner comprising:
 - (a) a vacuum cleaner head having a dirty air inlet and an air flow path there through for transporting particulate material entrained in air passing through the air flow path, the air flow path in fluid flow communication with a source of suction; and,
 - b) a filter assembly comprising an electronic filter with a plurality of spaced apart, porous electrically conductive ~~members~~ plates defining a convoluted air flow path through the electronic filter, and at least one porous, non conductive spacing member positioned in the air flow path between at least two adjacent electrically conductive ~~members~~ plates, each porous, non-conductive spacing member having first and second opposed sides, the first opposed side positioned adjacent a first electrically conductive ~~members~~ plates and the second opposed side positioned adjacent a second electrically conductive ~~members~~ plates wherein, in use, the first and second electrically conductive ~~members~~ plates have different potentials sufficient to produce polarized charges at the first and second opposed surfaces of a spacing member; and,
 - (c) a cyclone upstream of the filter assemblywhereby the particulate material is tribocharged during its passage through the cyclone and the electrically conductive porous plates are inductively charged by the particulate material.
2. (cancelled)

3. (original) The filter assembly as claimed in claim 1 wherein the electrically conductive plates are constructed from expanded metal.
4. (cancelled)
5. (currently amended) The vacuum cleaner as claimed in claim 12 wherein the electrically conductive porous plates are chargeably connected to a current source.
6. (cancelled)
7. (cancelled)
8. (currently amended) The vacuum cleaner as claimed in claim 1 wherein the electrically conductive ~~members~~ plates are of the same polarity.
9. (currently amended) The vacuum cleaner as claimed in claim 1 wherein the electrically conductive ~~members~~ plates and the non-conductive spacing members define an electronic filter which has an upstream end, a downstream end and a central portion and the central portion is operated at a higher potential then the downstream end.
10. (original) The vacuum cleaner as claimed in claim 9 wherein the central portion is operated at a higher potential then the downstream end and the upstream end.

11. (currently amended) The vacuum cleaner as claimed in claim 1 wherein adjacent electrically conductive ~~members~~ plates have a difference in potential of at least 1,000 volts.
12. (currently amended) The vacuum cleaner as claimed in claim 1 wherein adjacent electrically conductive ~~members~~ plates have a difference in potential which varies from about 1,000 to 2,500 volts.
13. (currently amended) The vacuum cleaner as claimed in claim 1 wherein adjacent electrically conductive ~~members~~ plates have a difference in potential of at least 10%.
14. (currently amended) The vacuum cleaner as claimed in claim 1 wherein one electrically conductive ~~members~~ plate having the highest potential is connectable to a high voltage source and the other electrically conductive ~~members~~ plates are electrically connected to the plate having the highest potential via at least one resistor whereby the flow of the current through the at least one resistor reduces the voltage of the current provided to the other plates.
15. (currently amended) The vacuum cleaner as claimed in claim 1 wherein one electrically conductive ~~members~~ plate having the highest potential is connectable to a high voltage source and the other electrically conductive ~~members~~ plates are charged by selecting the non-conductive layer to permit current leakage to pass there through whereby the other plates are charged by the current leakage.
16. (currently amended) The vacuum cleaner as claimed in claim 1 wherein the electrically conductive ~~members~~ plates and the non-conductive spacing members

define an electronic filter and the electronic filter has an upstream end and a downstream end and a ground electrode is positioned adjacent the upstream end and the downstream end.

17. -59 (cancelled)

60. (new) The vacuum cleaner as claimed in claim 1 wherein the electrically conductive plates are not connected to a high voltage source.

61. (new) The electronic filter as claimed in claim 1 wherein the airflow path through the filter assembly comprises a series of porous, non-conductive spacing members and electrically conductive plates.

62. (new) The electronic filter as claimed as claimed in claim 1 wherein the airflow path through the filter assembly comprises an alternating series of porous, non-conductive spacing members and electrically conductive plates.